

Germans Start New Offensive at Various Points on Front

to do almost entirely with the educational and charitable interests with which he was connected.

The local banking world, Mr. Branch will be remembered by the present generation of bankers as the man whose commanding influence, more than any one other factor, kept Richmond banks from suspending specie payments during the gloomy days of 1907, when one city after another took to clearing-house certificates and scrip.

A dozen leading Richmond bankers recall the panic day in 1907 when the national banks of New York suspended specie payments and the tremor that shook the financial structure of the country as the result of that act. They recall a council of local bankers that met the same night in the library of John P. Branch, at 1 West Franklin Street, to determine the course that Richmond should pursue in the crisis with which the whole banking world was threatened.

MEETING AT HIS HOME
MADE HISTORY FOR RICHMOND
That meeting, at the home of Mr. Branch, was prolonged until 2 o'clock in the morning. It made history for Richmond. There were present men who saw in the suspension of specie payments the only hope of safety. Mr. Branch took the lead in urging the local banks to cling to the currency basis, and it was largely to his commanding influence and the confidence that other bankers had in his sound judgment that the meeting voted after a stormy all-night session to keep Richmond in the specie-basis column.

Richmond was among the few important cities in the country that had no recourse to scrip during the entire 1907 panic period. This was a rock upon which the city proceeded to build the banking system which has become its share in recent years, and which contributed in no small degree to the strength of the city's claim for preference in the recent competition for the Federal reserve bank.

WELL-KNOWN FIGURE IN DOWNTOWN DISTRICT
Tall, dignified and gray, John P. Branch was a familiar and well-known figure in the downtown district that houses the city's big financial institutions. For years his daily trip to the Merchants' National Bank in a big limousine was as much a part of the banking district's life as the daily meetings of the clearing-house. Newsboys knew him by sight, and fought for the privilege of selling him a paper at a surmounting profit, and porters watched for his coming.

His reputation as a lover of his fellow-man and as a philanthropist of open hand, brought to his office a constant stream of men, with whom he would plead for help for every imaginable object. Few of them went away empty-handed. He was a leading spirit in the movement that led to the establishment of the Virginia Home and Industrial School for Girls, at Bon Air, and was the treasurer of the Spring Street Home, in this city.

TOOK ACTIVE PART IN WORK OF CHURCH
A member of the Methodist Church at the age of thirteen, Mr. Branch until the last took a deep interest in the various activities of this denomination in Virginia. He attended the sessions of the first general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, held in Petersburg in 1895. With others, he formed the Market Street Methodist Church in Petersburg, his native city, in which he spent his young manhood. The church was organized by Rev. John E. Edwards, whom Mr. Branch accompanied on a trip to Europe in 1895.

As a citizen, Mr. Branch took a deep interest in municipal affairs, although he was never a member of the City Council. He was particularly interested in the betterment of living and housing conditions, in the improvement of streets and sanitation and in the progress and development of the municipal health department. His best efforts in this field were the establishment of his expense of the public baths which bear his name.

SPENT MANY SUMMERS AT THE WHITE SULPHUR
In his more active days, Mr. Branch traveled extensively in this country and in Europe. For years he was in the habit of spending three or four months at White Sulphur Springs, W. Va., where he was a familiar figure to the visitors and guests of this famous watering place. With his return from White Sulphur last autumn, his health began to fail rapidly, culminating in the acute illness of the last three weeks, which resulted in his death.

No meeting of bankers and business men concerned with one of the major problems or interests of the city was regarded as complete without his presence. One of his most recent public appearances was at the dinner given by local bankers at the Jefferson Hotel last autumn in honor of the board of directors of the Richmond Federal Reserve Bank. The aged banker, who spoke here of the city's financial condition, a center of finance and of the responsibilities that rest upon the directors who were about to undertake the management of the city's newest banking institution.

SPOKE AT BANQUET TO NEW BANK DIRECTORS
Mr. Branch, on that occasion, was inclined to look with disfavor upon the general indictment of the old national banking system that had been made by one or two of the preceding speakers. He reminded his audience that with all its faults the old national banking system had served the country well through many trying periods, and that it remained to be shown that the new system that was being introduced with such acclaim was a better one. While it was his belief, he said, that the currency act inaugurated a new era in the country's banking history and a better one, its success would depend upon many factors—chiefly upon the quality of the men who would be selected to direct it.

The intimacies of advancing age withdrew him more and more from public life. A large circle of friends and kinsfolk continued to visit him at his home until he became confined to his bed three weeks ago, but from the financial district, where the patriarchal figure of John P. Branch was known to newsboy and bank president, the aged banker had passed forever many weeks ago.

Expressions of sorrow over the death of Mr. Branch were heard in all sections of the city last night, and from all classes of persons. Many prominent bankers and other business asso-

WHAT WARRING NATIONS CLAIM IN THEIR OFFICIAL STATEMENTS

French

PARIS, February 2.—The French War Office this afternoon gave out a report on the progress of the war, which reads as follows:

"The day of February 1 was marked by redoubled intensity in the artillery fighting on our part, as well as that of the enemy, and by a series of German attacks, of relatively secondary importance, all of which were repulsed with serious losses for our adversaries, when compared to the number of men they had engaged.

"In Belgium the German heavy artillery gave evidence of its great activity on the front of the Belgian troops, and particularly against the various points of support which these troops have been occupying for some time past in the region of the Yser. Around Ypres the cannonading was at some places exceedingly violent.

"Between the Lys and the Somme a German regiment attacked a British position near Bulchuy, and at first drove the English soldiers back. After a series of counterattacks, the British troops reoccupied the territory they had lost and then advanced into new territory, taking possession of trenches of the enemy.

"The engagement reported in the announcement given out the night of February 1, which took place along the roadway between Bethune and La Bassée, was particularly brilliant for our infantry. It seems that the Germans had at least one battalion in this engagement. The two first attacks were broken by our fire. The third was successful in that the Germans entered one of our trenches, but an immediate counterattack at the point of the bayonet resulted in our overcoming the enemy. Only a few Germans succeeded in regaining their trenches; all the others were killed or taken prisoners.

"Between the Somme and the Oise and along the front of the Aisne there is no important development to report, with the exception of a German attack on Beaumont Hamel, which was not renewed. Our heavy artillery bombarded the railroad station at Noyon, where the Germans were repositioning their forces, our shells caused two explosions, the smoke from which could be seen for more than two hours and a half.

"Our methodical progress in the region of Perthes continues. We have occupied another small forest on the northwest of this village.

"In the Woëvre district the enemy delivered an attack on the western side of the Bouchot forest (north-east of Trossy), which was at once driven back.

"There is nothing to report on the front in Lorraine and in the Vosges."

The following official communication was issued by the War Office tonight:

"From the sea to the Lys the

German artillery has tried, without success, to reduce our batteries.

"In the sector of Arras rifle firing continued throughout the night of February 1-2, but the infantry did not attack.

"Near Soissons we have done some damage to the enemy's batteries and repelled an attack on an infantry contingent at St. Paul.

"Fresh progress has been made by us near Perthes-les-Hurlus (north-east of Chalons), at the outskirts of the wood, the occupation of which by our troops has previously been reported.

"In the Argonne, near Bagatelle, we repulsed a German attack. In the Vosges, L'Orzol was bombarded during the night, and our troops made progress toward Burnhaupt-le-Bas."

German

BERLIN, February 2 (by wireless to Sayville).—The headquarters staff of the German army to-day gave out a report on the progress of the war reading as follows:

"In the western arena of the war there have been artillery exchanges at several points. With this exception, there is nothing important to report. There have been no important developments on the East Prussian frontier.

"In Poland, north of the River Vistula and near Lipno, we have had encounters with detachments of Russian cavalry. South of the Vistula our attacks continue to make progress.

"Continuing, to-day's report says that the French war reports during the past few days have contained grotesque distortions of the truth to the disadvantage of the Germans, as well as what is characterized as 'free inventions.'

"The staff declines to go into details in this regard, simply saying that the value of these French statements is apparent to any one who will examine them in the light of German official reports."

Russian

PETROGRAD, February 2.—An official communication issued by the general staff of the army of the Caucasus says:

"There were no engagements of importance at any point on the front on January 31."

Austrian

VIENNA, February 2 (via London, 10:40 P. M.).—The following official communication was issued to-day:

"The general situation is unchanged. A Russian attack in the central section of the Pilica River, in Poland, has been repulsed.

"The battle in the Carpathians continues on the western front. The German and Austrian troops were successful in the fighting in the middle front."

ization of the city's Health Department and the adoption of more effective sanitary regulations.

Mr. Branch's most conspicuous monument in the city is the system of public baths which bears his name. The founding of the Branch Public Baths was made possible through his liberal donations to this cause. In less apparent ways Mr. Branch was a liberal contributor to many public charities.

PROMINENT IN BANKING AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS
Mr. Branch was a member of the Westmoreland Club, the Commonwealth Club, the Country Club of Virginia, the Sons of the Revolution, and of a number of other organizations. He was twice a member of the executive committee of the American Bankers' Association. In 1913 he was given the honorary degree of LL. D. by Randolph-Macon College.

As a member of the Methodist Church he was looked upon as the first layman of the church in Virginia. He became a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church when he was only thirteen years old. He was for many years a steward and trustee of Centenary Methodist Church, where he attended services regularly. He was repeatedly a delegate to the annual and general conferences.

ACTIVE IN METHODIST AND EDUCATIONAL WORK
Mr. Branch was at the time of his death a trustee of Randolph-Macon College. He was for years a member of the board of trustees of the Methodist orphanage of the Virginia Conference, and of the board of managers of the Methodist Institute for Christian Work, of this city. He built and equipped at his own expense the Branch Dormitory at Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, in memory of his wife, who died in 1896.

Despite the labors of a life busily concerned with public and private interests, Mr. Branch found time for extensive travel both in this country and Europe. To a large circle of friends he was known as a man with a rich store of experiences, upon which he drew for the entertainment of his guests at his palatial home in Richmond or his temporary abodes in New York and West Virginia.

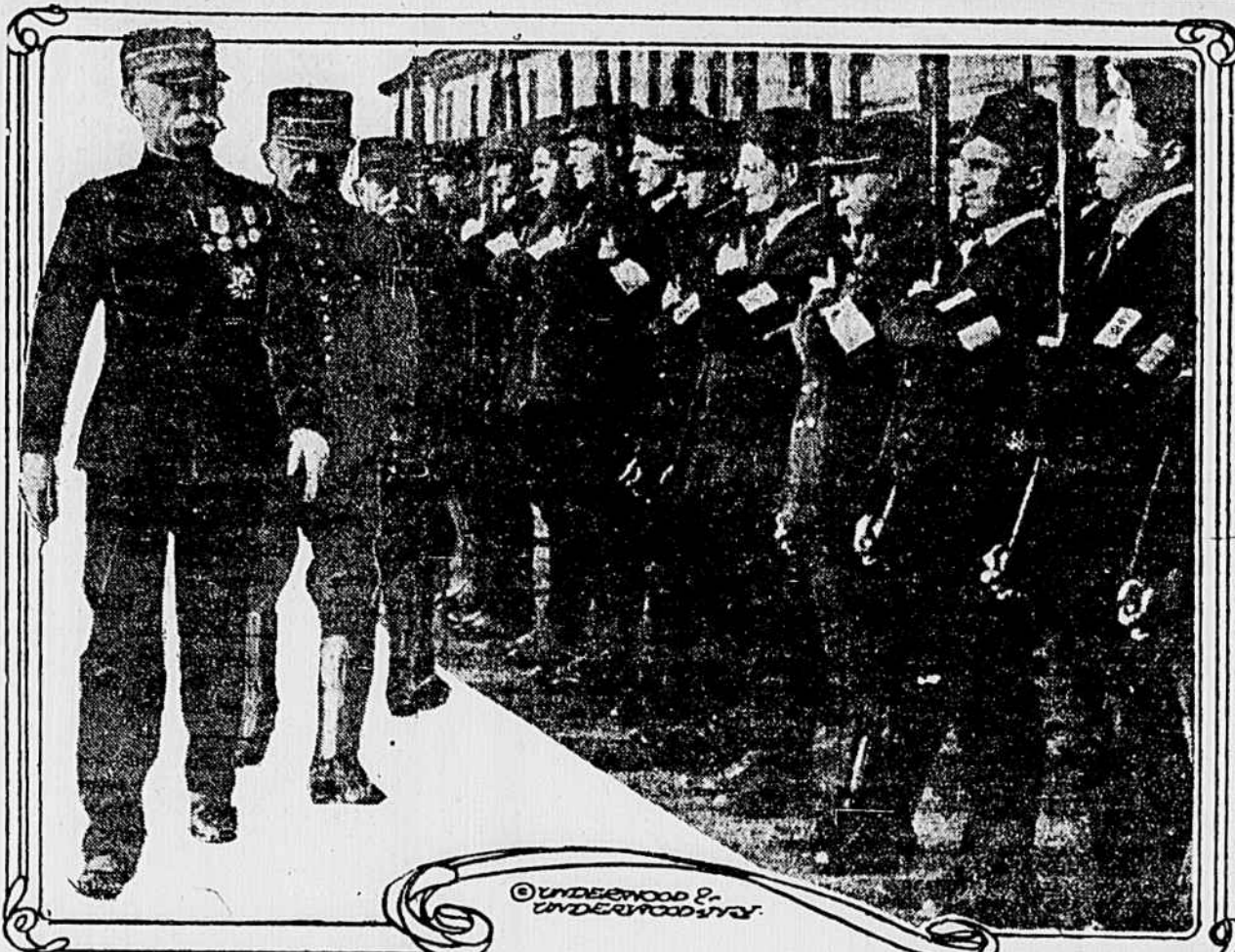
FRENCH POLICE SEIZE POPE'S PEACE PRAYER
PARIS, February 2.—Periodicals containing the text of Pope Benedict's prayer for peace, which he had directed should be read in all churches on February 7, were seized on Sunday by the police, according to the Figaro.

Explanations were made, however, by Cardinal Amette, Archbishop of Paris, and the embargo was withdrawn.

Motives for the seizure were not announced, but it is believed, the Figaro says, that the government feared the expression of hope of an early peace might be misinterpreted by the public and have a depressing effect upon opinion.

EDITH TALIAFERRO, In 'YOUNG ROMANCE' Strand to-day. To-morrow Marguerite Clark in 'THE GOOSE GIRL.'

LEADS RECRUITS TO BATTLE FRONT



Gen. Gallieni Reviewing Recruits in front of Paris Military College

It is reported that General Gallieni, military commander of Paris, has taken his big army of trained recruits who were called out for service last year to the firing line. The French have high hopes that these new, but well trained, recruits will carry the tide of battle for the allies and break the deadlock in the western front. General Gallieni is here seen reviewing some of the recruits in front of the military college in Paris.

GERMANS DELIVER SERIES OF ATTACKS IN BOTH WAR ZONES

(Continued from First Page.)

ers in the Irish Sea, has not been seen since Sunday, and it is presumed she has withdrawn. Traffic in those waters, however, continues somewhat restricted, shipowners preferring to keep in port all but the fast steamers, which, it is believed, can elude the submarines.

SHIPPING TO KEEP AWAY FROM COAST OF FRANCE

The Germans have issued a warning that an attempt will be made to sink their transports, and have advised neutral shipping to keep away from the north and west coasts of France.

Reports reaching Holland say the new breed regulations in Germany have caused so much unrest that 12,000 special constables have been appointed to guard Berlin bakeries.

It is also said that following the action of the government in commandeering cereals, the military authorities are confiscating all utensils containing metals useful for their purposes. It is recognized that these are precautionary measures and are not due to any immediate shortage.

Copenhagen newspapers have a Constantinople report that the Anglo-French fleet has destroyed four Dardanelles forts, and that there is a panic in the Turkish capital, where defeats suffered by the Turks in the Caucasus and Azerbaijan are just becoming known.

POLITICAL TRUCE IN ENGLAND RENEWED

With the opening of the British Parliament to-day, the political truce was renewed. The government, while assuming all responsibility for the war, welcomed the opposition's support, and ministers announced they would readily reply to all criticism and endeavor to avoid controversial matters.

An indication of possible action by Italy is to be found in a notification issued to Italian reservists in England to prepare to join the colors.

ITALIAN RESERVISTS MUST BE IN READINESS

LONDON, February 2 (6 P. M.).—The Italian reservists living in England have been warned to prepare to respond to a call to the colors.

GERMAN SUBMARINE ATTACKS HOSPITAL SHIP

PARIS, February 2 (2 P. M.).—A German submarine yesterday made an unsuccessful attempt to torpedo the British hospital ship Asturias, according to a communication given out to-day by the Ministry of Marine, "thus violating the formal clause of the Hague convention of 1907 regarding the attacking of hospital vessels."

The Asturias, the ministry explained, was fifteen miles north-northeast of the Havre lighthouse when the attack was made.

TERRIBLE LOSSES SUFFERED BY GERMANS

LONDON, February 2 (9:35 P. M.).—The Germans suffered terrible losses in attempting to take British trenches, according to an account by the British official eyewitness of two German attacks between the La Bassée Canal and the Bethune Road January 29.

"In the centre," says the report, "our men, firmly established in the brick fields, gave the Germans a very warm reception, and the latter fell back, leaving fifty dead in front of this point alone."

"To the south of it they temporarily gained possession of a small portion of one of our trenches, but immediately were counterattacked with the bayonet."

and every man in the trench was killed. The same thing happened close to the Bethune Road, where the Germans gained another of our trenches, only to be bayoneted to a man.

"After the fighting was over the enemy's dead to the estimated number of 200 lay thick all along our line. Our casualties were slight."

"This attack, like those delivered at Givency and at Zonnebeke on the 25th, was a costly failure, resulting only in a great waste of life. It was made by some 300 men in the first line, and 300 more in support occupying the trench vacated by the first line when it moved forward."

"Prisoners say there were 100 dead lying in this trench before the Germans advanced, and that none of the troops making the assault had attacked before."

MANY GERMAN JURISTS KILLED IN WAR

BERNE, SWITZERLAND, February 2 (via Paris, 5:30 P. M.).—Official statements given out in Berlin to-day say 1,279 German jurists have been killed in the war. The total is made up of 6 professors, 275 judges, 240 lawyers, 334 assessors and 424 barristers.

WILL NOT REFRAIN FROM TORPEDOING MERCHANT SHIPS

AMSTERDAM, February 2 (via London, 8:35 P. M.).—Discussing the torpedoing of British merchantmen by German submarines, the Berlin Kreuzzeitung says:

"England and France cannot claim from us in all circumstances and without exceptions the benevolent treatment we hitherto have accorded merchant ships at sea. Certainly the life of no civilian will be sacrificed without necessity, but as no one refrains from boarding a fortress or places on a battlefield because civilians may thereby be killed, and as England has not hesitated to strew the North Sea with mines, whereby the lives of neutrals are sacrificed, so shall we not refrain from torpedoing English merchant ships simply because the lives of a few are thereby endangered."

SECOND AUSTRALIAN CONTINGENT IN EGYPT

LONDON, February 3 (1:05 A. M.).—The second Australian contingent has arrived in Egypt and has joined the first contingent.

The first Australian and New Zealand contingents were disembarked in Egypt early in December "to assist in the defence of that country and to complete their training."

It was announced officially that some of the men might go to the front in Europe. According to the last reports, the Australians were encamped near the Pyramids.

If the Turks, numbering about 120,000, continue their reported advance on Egypt, the Australians probably will see active service against them.

NO ACTIVITY BY GERMAN SUBMARINES REPORTED

LONDON, February 3 (8:50 A. M.).—No activity by German submarines in the Irish Sea was reported yesterday. All cross-channel mail and passenger services will be resumed to-day.

RUSSIAN SUBMARINES SINK GERMAN BOAT

LONDON, February 3 (2:05 A. M.).—A Petrograd dispatch to the Morning Post says that Russian submarines, besides seriously damaging the German cruiser Gazelle recently in the Baltic Sea, also sank a German gunboat. As a result of their activity, German warships no longer sail the Baltic with their former freedom, the dispatch says.

OFFICIAL EYEWITNESS TELLS OF RECENT WARFARE (Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

LONDON, February 2.—An account by the official "eyewitness" with the British forces, covering operations up to January 30, was made public by the press bureau to-night.

"After the German attacks on the

25th, British aviators," says the official observer, "made a successful reconnaissance over a section of the German line. Traveling at a low altitude, they obtained much useful information, and dropped ten bombs on the German trenches."

"On the right the British troops gained a little ground. In this same quarter some successes were won by snipers, the allied guns caused the evacuation of a saphead by the enemy. In the night of the 25th some lost ground was regained near Bethune."

"The following day passed quietly. The hostile shelling was less severe. On the morning of the 26th," the account continues, "the enemy made two determined attacks upon the center of our right line, between the La Bassée Canal and the Bethune Road. The Germans fell back, leaving fifty dead. At the south they temporarily gained possession of a small portion of our trenches, but we immediately counterattacked with the bayonet, and every man in the trench was killed."

"The same thing happened close to the Bethune Road, where the Germans gained another one of our trenches, only to be bayoneted to a man. After the fighting was over, the enemy's dead, estimated at number 200, lay thick all along the line. The allied casualties were slight. This attack was a costly failure, resulting only in great waste of life."

"The existing ignorance and credulity of the Germans about affairs in the British empire is shown by the statement, generally believed, that 150,000 Japanese troops have been sent to assist the Germans in India. Grave doubts are held as to whether we will ever get rid of their again."

"The German soldiers appear to well looked after, special care being taken of their feet. The men are made to remove their boots and socks after getting wet, and their feet are then rubbed and dusted over with some kind of powder. All the soldiers are inoculated against typhoid and cholera."

"Many now serving in the German trenches were living in England before the war. Some of them, when captured, express an ardent desire to return there. The other day a deserter astonished our men by suddenly rushing towards them unarmed, shouting: 'Nach London,' as he jumped into our trenches."

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ASKS EXTRADITION

OTTAWA, ONT., February 2.—The Canadian government has applied for extradition of Werner Van Horn, arrested to-day in connection with the dynamiting of a Canadian Pacific Railway bridge over the St. Croix River, on the international boundary.

Van Horn was arrested in Vancouver, B. C., but as the offense was committed on Canadian territory his extradition is sought, that he may be tried by the Canadian courts on a charge of destruction of railway property.

The application of the Canadian government for the person of Van Horn has been forwarded to the British ambassador at Washington for submission to Washington officials.

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